

Memorandum for: The Record

Subject: Testimony before the Senate Internal Security
Subcommittee regarding certain proposals of
STATOTHR [redacted]
From: Legislative Counsel

1. Mr. Robert Morris, Counsel for the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee (Sen. Pat McCarran, Chairman), called to state that the Subcommittee desired testimony in Executive Session from Mr. Frank Wisner, of the CIA Office of Policy Coordination.

STATOTHR 2. The testimony which is desired from Mr. Wisner bears on an alleged suggestion by [redacted] Department Policy Staff, that CIA had set up or employed a committee on China policy, including [redacted]

25X1A [redacted]

25X1A

STATOTHR 3. Mr. Morris informed me that Mr. Wisner had made a formal statement on this occurrence to the FBI in the course of their investigation of [redacted] and that Mr. Morris had seen that statement.

4. Mr. Morris stated that the proceedings would be of a friendly nature and that Mr. Wisner could testify of his own desire or, if it were considered preferable, the Committee would issue a subpoena for him. I asked Mr. Morris whether it were possible not to appear, and he informed me that the Chairman desired the testimony and would issue a subpoena if we did not comply.

STATOTHR 5. Colonel Edwards was with me at the time of the call, and he, Colonel Hansen and I met shortly afterwards with Mr. Wisner. Mr. Wisner outlined his recollection of the incident and pointed out that he did not participate in the conversation with [redacted] but that it had taken place with members of his staff. He also outlined the difficult position in which we found ourselves with the State Department after news of this meeting had come to the attention of the FBI.

State Dept. review completed
OGC Has Reviewed

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

6. The following positions were outlined:

a. Mr. Pforzheimer pointed out that Senator McCarran was in a position to do the Agency considerable harm, and had been extremely helpful to the Agency, not only from the standpoint of appropriations, but also from the standpoint of private operational bills and our 100 alien provision. Furthermore, we do not want to put ourself in a position with the Congress of appearing to duck an issue of this kind. However, it is recognized that if any way can be worked out by which the appearance of a CIA witness can be avoided, such steps should be taken, and initially it might be best to attempt to arrange a meeting between Mr. Wisner and myself on the one hand, and Mr. Morris on the other.

The possibility was also pointed out that Mr. Wisner's statement would not be the "best evidence" of the alleged [] statements, as he had not been present at the meeting at which they were made. This fact might lead the Committee to inquire who was present at the meeting and require their testimony. It was agreed, from a standpoint of security, that this should not be allowed if it was at all possible to prevent it.

STATOTHR

b. Colonel Edwards stated that he had no security objection to Mr. Wisner's appearance.

c. Mr. Wisner stressed the difficulties with the Department of State which arose from the fact that the FBI was informed of [] suggestion and that the State Department had expressed considerable ill feeling as a result. Mr. Wisner further pointed out that we were not in a position to know that Mr. [] had in mind in making such a suggestion, and that the "best evidence" of this would be testimony by [] himself. He also set forth certain further information, of which he is presently aware on a confidential basis, concerning this whole situation.

STATOTHR

STATOTHR

STATOTHR

d. Colonel Hansen raised the problem that no CIA representative should testify before Congressional Committees on matters of this sort, and that such a precedent should be established. It was agreed that under certain circumstances this would, of course, be desirable. It was then determined that Mr. Wisner could not take any action in this matter until he had consulted the Director and ascertained the Director's wishes.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- 3 -

7. Subsequently, Colonel Hansen and I discussed this matter further and agreed that CIA should:

a. Go over the ground with committee counsel in an effort to resolve the query informally and thus avoid an appearance by Mr. Wisner before the committee.

b. Notify State of the results of this conference in order that CIA might not be charged with bad faith.


c. If it becomes necessary for Mr. Wisner to testify, obtain an understanding that no subordinate of his be called.

d. If it becomes necessary for Mr. Wisner to testify, explore the desirability of having him subpoenaed that he need not appear as a voluntary witness.

e. Insist upon an executive session with full understanding of the sensitivity of CIA and its trade.

8. On 3 August, Mr. Wisner, Mr. Pforzheimer and Colonel Hansen discussed this matter with the DCI. The results of this meeting are embodied in Mr. Wisner's Memorandum for the Record dated 3 August 1951.

25X1A


Walter L. Pforzheimer

cc:
DD/Plans
ADD (I&S)
Stayback - 2